

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 STR-04

AGR-05 FEA-01 /116 W

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R 301602Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7323

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, EI

SUBJECT: EC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 254498

1. PURSUANT TO DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) KESTER HEASLIP AT IRISH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED EC-IRAN PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. HEASLIP HAD HIS PRINCIPAL AIDE ON THIS
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SUBJECT (COUNSELOR PAT MCCABE) JOIN THE MEETING.

2. HEASLIP AND MCCABE LISTENED CAREFULLY AND TOOK NOTES AS WE OUTLINED USG POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. BOTH WERE FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH GENERAL OUTLINES OF USG POSITION, BUT MEETING PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO REFRESH THEIR MEMORIES ON SOME OF THE DETAILS. NEITHER HEASLIP NOR MCCABE HAD ANY SERIOUS ARGUMENT WITH OUR ATTITUDE, BUT THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO DEFINE A CLEARCUT, IRISH GOVERNMENT POSITION. THEIR VIEW IS THAT THIS IS A MATTER THAT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY THE COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS, AND THEY WERE MOST EMPHATIC IN THEIR OPINION THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES IN THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO CONVEY ANY OTHER IMPRESSION IN THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH IRAN. THEY NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS CONSISTENTLY TOLD THE IRANIANS THAT A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE, BUT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN SO CONSISTENT.

3. HEASLIP ADDED THAT IRELAND HAS DONE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO ENCOURAGE A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, NOR DO THE IRISH FEEL THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD NECESSARILY BE A GOOD IDEA. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO HAVE A "ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION" BETWEEN THE NINE AND THE IRANIANS, IRELAND WOULD PARTICIPATE WITH AN OPEN MIND. HEASLIP EMPHASIZED THAT ANY SUCH CONTACTS SHOULD BE THROUGH THE COMMISSION, AND HE EXPRESSED HIS FERVENT HOPE THAT THE COMMISSION WILL SOON BE ABLE TO PUT THE MATTER TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL.
CURLEY

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